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**Testimony of The Connecticut Audubon Society regarding S.B. No. 1148 (RAISED)  
AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN KILLING AND HUNTING OF BLACK BEAR AND  
PROHIBITING BIRD FEEDERS AND OTHER UNINTENTIONAL AND INTENTIONAL  
FEEDING OF POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS.**

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Connecticut Audubon Society would like to express its strong opposition to portions of for S.B. No. 1148 “An Act Authorizing Certain Killing and Hunting of Black Bear and Prohibiting Bird Feeders and Other Unintentional and Intentional Feeding of Potentially Dangerous Animals.” This bill would prohibit the very popular activity of bird feeding. While we understand that feeding of birds can unintentionally serve to attract and feed bears, this tends to be a self-limiting activity, as the bears generally destroy the bird feeders in the process of gaining a meal. We feel it is too broad to set a blanket prohibition on the feeding of birds, as there are many parts of the state and times of year when feeding birds can be safely done. An outright prohibition would have a serious negative economic impact on many businesses in Connecticut who sell feeders and seed and bird feeding is an important gateway to awareness of the wonder of birds, leading to increased interest in birds and their well-being in the state.

Please help us to address this important issue by opposing these provisions of S.B. No. 1148. Thank you so much for the opportunity to provide input to this important proposal today.

Patrick M. Comins  
Executive Director

*The Connecticut Audubon Society protects Connecticut’s birds, other wildlife, and their habitats through conservation, education, and advocacy. We envision that our efforts will lead to a future where all can share and experience the joys of nature and understand the importance of environmental preservation. Founded in 1898, we operate nature facilities in Fairfield, Milford, Pomfret, Hampton, Sherman, Stratford, the Greater Hartford Area and Old Lyme, and an EcoTravel office in Essex. We own and manage 22 preserves covering more than 3,400 acres in all areas of the state, and we work with landowners to help them manage their land for the benefit of birds and other wildlife.*